
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

FOR THE YEAR

1955



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OF THE

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Incorporated under Nigerian Ordinance No. 39 of 1946)

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

Head Office:

BOTA, VICTORIA.

CAMEROONS UNDER UNITED KINGDOM TRUSTEESHIP.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION:

A. H. YOUNG, C.B.E., *Chairman.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS.

E. K. MARTIN, M.H.A.

J. FINDLAY.

W. L. BLOOMFIELD, A.C.A.

S. T. MUNA, M.H.A. }

H. B. COX. }

to 30th June, 1955.

GALEGA II, FON OF BALI.

N. N. MBILE.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS (ECONOMIC SECTION) (*ex officio*)

THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY
OF THE SOUTHERN CAMEROONS (*ex officio*)

} from 1st July, 1955.

Secretary:

A. C. WOOD, M.A.

CONTENTS

1.	Annual Report 1955	...	...	...	...	...	3
	I	Introduction...	...	...	...	...	3
	II	General	...	...	...	...	3
	III	The Corporation	...	...	...	...	4
		(A) The Corporation's Ordinance	...	...	...	...	4
		(B) Membership	...	...	...	...	5
	IV	Meetings	...	...	...	...	5
	V	Corporation Lands	...	...	...	...	5
	VI	Agricultural Activities	...	...	...	...	6
	VII	Production	...	...	...	...	10
	VIII	Joint Activities with Elders & Fyffes Ltd.	...	...	...	...	11
	IX	Engineering	...	...	...	...	11
		(A) Civil	...	...	...	...	11
		(B) Mechanical Transport	...	...	...	...	13
		(C) Electrical	...	...	...	...	13
	X	Marine and Shipping	...	...	...	...	14
	XI	Staff and Labour	...	...	...	...	15
	XII	Welfare and Social Services	...	...	...	...	18
	XIII	Education	...	...	...	...	19
	XIV	Medical	...	...	...	...	21
	XV	Finance: Results to 31st December 1955	...	...	...	...	23
2.	Analysis of Employees by Tribes as at 31st December 1955	...	...	...	...	...	25
3.	Summary of Cultivated Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	26
4.	Accounts, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	28

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I. Introduction.

The report of the International Bank on the Economic Development of Nigeria recommended that the Corporation should revalue its assets and recast its accounts. This has, to some extent, been done in the 1955 accounts. Fixed assets have been valued at the original cost, which is shown less capital allowances at statutory rates in accordance with the Income Tax Ordinance. The total written off in previous years exceeded the statutory allowances by £835,636, which has been credited to Reserve for Depreciation. As the initial income tax allowances are heavy and no value has been placed on fixed assets which were on the plantations when they were transferred to the Corporation the present balance sheet value of fixed assets, in the words of the report of the Mission, "still considerably understates the value of the Corporation's assets." A physical revaluation of the assets would be costly and would at present serve no practical purpose.

After having been charged with Social and Welfare expenditure amounting to £72,083, cost of Medical Services £105,527, and an Arbitration award for increase in wages and salaries with retrospective effect £116,012, the surplus on Revenue Account for the year under review amounts to £763,478, which has been transferred to the Profit and Loss Account. This account has been charged with Statutory Depreciation £734,066, Loan Interest £73,521, and unallocated Rent of Concessions £18,967. The final result is a loss for the year of £28,215. If the Arbitration award had not been with retrospective effect, the surplus profit for the period, to be transferred to the Cameroons Government, would have been £87,797.

II. General.

1955, the ninth year in the life of the Corporation, witnessed a further expansion in Agricultural Development and the virtual completion of the ancillary services necessary to operate the existing plantations. In future it will therefore be possible to concentrate a larger percentage of the available funds on purely agricultural development.

Windstorms, which were unusually severe in March, caused the loss of nearly three million banana plants which resulted in an abnormal short fall in the estimated banana production and revenue, the quantity shipped

being lower than any year since 1950. The year was also not free from the hazards of agricultural diseases, Panama disease claiming a further 1,724 acres of bananas.

The Agricultural Development included 1,524 acres of bananas new planting and 805 acres replanting, and preparations were made for planting a further 3,450 acres in 1956. 1,381 acres of oil palms were replanted, and a programme for 1956 of approximately 300 acres of new planting and 800 acres of replanting was in hand. On the rubber estates 738 acres of new planting and 691 acres of replanting were completed, whilst a further 540 acres were being prepared for new planting in 1956 together with 700 acres replanting.

As a result of an arbitration award following the breakdown of conciliation negotiations between the Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union and the Corporation, the salaries and wages of all classes of employees up to Intermediate Service status were increased. The salary scales and salaries of the Senior Service were also revised and increased to bring them in line with the Gorsuch report.

During November some of the Corporation's plantations and other activities were visited by the Mission from the United Nations Trusteeship Council.

The Capital Works Programme included the construction of the new General Office at Bota, which will be occupied early in 1956, the foundations and steel structure of the Oil Mill at Idenau and the initial preparations for a new rubber factory at Ekona. A start was also made on a tea factory at Tole and a new railway track linking Mpundu to the Tiko Plain.

A decision was taken to have an aerial survey carried out to ensure that the Corporation's lands are put to the best and most economic use. Due to a protracted wet season and early harmattan, the survey aircraft was unable to complete the photography in November/December, and it is hoped that it will do so in March or April 1956. The ground control, which is proving extremely difficult in the broken country, is continuing.

Due to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient sea passages for staff proceeding or returning from leave in the United Kingdom during July and August, two experimental charter flights were arranged during these months, using the "Safari" route extended via Lagos to Tiko. The experiment proved successful and it is hoped to arrange further air charters during 1956.

III. The Corporation.

A. THE CORPORATION'S ORDINANCE.

The Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance, was amended by the Southern Cameroons Law No. 5 of 1955, which gave effect to the recommendations of the Committee which had investigated the inter-relationship between the Government of the Federation, the Southern Cameroons Government and the Cameroons Development Corporation. The law provides for the representation of the Southern Cameroons

Government on the Board of the Corporation and places a duty upon the Corporation to provide facilities for the training of its employees who are natives of the Cameroons.

Provision is also made for the laying of the annual and periodic statements of accounts and the Annual Report on the table of the Southern Cameroons House of Assembly, and for the Commissioner of the Cameroons to call for such financial and statistical reports from the Corporation as he may require. The law provides that the annual profits of the Corporation, after such deductions as are provided for in the Corporation's Ordinance shall be paid to the credit of the general revenue of the Southern Cameroons, thus amending the Ordinance which previously made provision that the profits "shall be applied for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship in such manner as the Governor General shall determine."

B. MEMBERSHIP.

The Deputy Secretary to the Council of Ministers (Economic Section) was appointed an *ex officio* member of the Corporation as from 1st July, 1955. This *ex officio* appointment replaces that of the Development Secretary, Nigeria Government, which post, as was reported last year, has been abolished. Mr. H. B. Cox, who had been Acting Commissioner for Nigeria in London, held his appointment as member until the above appointment was announced.

On the expiry on the 30th June, 1955, of the membership of Mr. S. T. Muna, M.H.A., and in accordance with the amendment to the Corporation's ordinance, the Financial and Development Secretary, Southern Cameroons, was appointed an *ex officio* member as from 1st July, 1955. The Fon of Bali and Mr. N. N. Mbile were reappointed Members for a further term of one year as from 13th November, 1955.

IV. Meetings.

Meetings of the Corporation were held as follows:—

General Meeting 28th March to 30th March, 1955, at Bota.

Special Meeting 21st April, 1955, at Bota.

Eighth Annual General Meeting 21st April, 1955, at Bota.

General Meeting 27th May, 1955, in London.

General Meeting 28th and 29th November, 1955, at Bota.

The various Sub-Committees of the Corporation met from time to time for discussion both before the General Meetings, so as to make recommendations to the full Board, and on other occasions throughout the year.

V. Corporation Lands.

Due to the recent expansion of the Southern Cameroons Government, its need for land suitable for residential building sites has increased and, in response to requests from the Commissioner of the Cameroons, the

Corporation agreed to surrender to Government all its lands and buildings at Buea with the exception of those required for Buea Farms. This surrender has been made possible by the transfer of the Personnel and Education Divisions from Buea to Bota, where office accommodation has been provided for them in the new General Office. The Corporation also agreed to surrender a plot of land to Government in the Tiko area for a residential building site.

Approval was given for three sub-leases, the first to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria of the Bota stand-by electricity generating plant, the second to the Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers of a plot of land for offices, garages, workshops, etc., and the third to the Basel Mission of a plot of land in the Middle Farm area, Bota, for the construction of a Mission Church.

VI. Agricultural Activities.

(i) *Bananas*.—With the lifting of restrictions on imports in the United Kingdom, the banana market continued to be more selective and only the best quality fruit was shipped by the Corporation. In order to minimise any deterioration in the quality and appearance of the fruit a decision was taken to wrap all stems for export in diothene tubing bags and by the end of the year all the Corporation's shipments were wrapped in this way.

The total damage caused by wind storms amounted to 2,971,000 stems nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ million more than in 1954. In March alone 1.8 million plants were lost and further losses were suffered in October. The result was a decrease of 7,200 tons in the quantity of bananas shipped as compared with 1954, but the size of the fruit was greater in that the average number of stems per ton was 66.65, as against 74.13 in 1954.

The Corporation, as previously, provided assistance to the Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers and relations continued to be most satisfactory. The Bakweri Co-operative Union of Farmers production more than doubled itself over the previous year's figures and it is expected that their 1956 production will reach 400,000 stems.

To cope with this rapid expansion, the railway siding in Tiko, where lorried fruit is off-loaded onto railway carriages, has been doubled in size and extra lighting installed. The total amount of fruit handled at this siding during the year was 1,284,533 stems or 29 per cent. of the total stems exported from the Cameroons.

"Cigar End" disease losses amounted to 65,255 stems during the year. These losses were mainly occasioned by the labour troubles during August when deflowering operations ceased in some areas and the large majority of stems not deflowered was so heavily infected as to be unfit for shipment.

"Cigar End" disease was brought under control before the end of the year but in June and July "Sigatoka", or "Leaf Spot" disease of the banana, made rapid spread on the Mabeta, Bimbia and Muyuka estates. This disease which was first reported in this country late in 1941 has never, until 1955, caused any loss of production in the British Cameroons. Spraying with Bordeaux or with a mixture with a copper

base is the only known control for " Leaf Spot ". Owing to the difficulties of the terrain, coupled with the very severe wind losses suffered by the banana industry which limit production per acre, those methods of leaf spot control which have been standard practice in all the large banana growing countries over the past twenty years are not an economic proposition over much of the banana acreage of the British Cameroons, but during the past year or so new techniques of spraying have been introduced which are reputed to be very much cheaper. Machines for experimental spraying are on order and it is hoped that an effective and economic method of control of the disease will be found.

Damage by elephants was as high as in 1954, despite many and varying preventive measures.

Banana " Figs " continued to be manufactured at the Ikange dehydrating plant and during the year over 100 tons were exported.

(ii) *Oil Palms*.—The total annual production of oil and kernels shows a considerable increase over all previous years. This is attributable in part to the production from M'bonge Plantation which was rehabilitated during the year, but with the increases in labour rates, it was found that this plantation could not pay its way. It was decided in November to close down oil palm production in this area early in 1956. The shock dressing of 8 lbs. potash per palm applied in September, 1954, to 3,000 acres mature Palms in Bota and Ekona, is also considered a contributory factor in the very satisfactory increase in fruit production per acre in those areas.

It was not possible to carry out the original development programme, due to shortage of labour, in the Idenau area, but by concentrating on replanting, an equal number of acres was planted up, amounting to 766 and 599 acres in Bota and Idenau respectively, bringing the total of new and replanting in all areas to 4,937 acres. 147 acres of 1951 planting were brought into harvest at Idenau.

The conversion of the Ekona mill from electrical to steam drive was completed satisfactorily with resultant economies in processing. The construction of the new mill at Idenau progressed well, and by the end of the year all foundation work together with the mill and workshop buildings had been completed. The delivery of the machinery on a phased programme is due to commence in the first quarter of 1956.

More than 190,000 seeds were planted as against 150,000 in 1954 and the seedlings have been generally healthy. Germination of the 10,000 Dura $\times$ Dura seeds received from the Oil Palm Research Station at Benin and planted in the Limbe nursery in November 1954, has been disappointing and to date only 2,163 have germinated. These latter will be planted out in Bota in the 1956 development programme.

The bulk storage, shipment and measuring tanks were calibrated toward the end of the year, and various proposals for more accurate methods of measurement, as advised by the calibration expert, were put into force.

(iii) *Rubber*.—In continuation of the Corporation's policy to replant old and low yielding rubber, 691 acres were replanted and in addition 738 acres were developed under new planting. About half the acreage was planted in budded stumps and the remainder in seed at stake, to be budgrafted in 1956.

Production during the year amounted to 1,525 tons as compared with 1,595 tons in 1954. This yield is satisfactory in that early in the year, in addition to the 691 acres cut out for replanting, a further 159 acres were transferred to bananas and building sites, whereas the 747 acres of young rubber planted in 1948 only came into production towards the end of the year. Also the March windstorm destroyed approximately 20,000 trees of 10 years of age, the equivalent of 200 acres. The overall yield per acre has improved by nearly 5 per cent., and the grading of the rubber produced continued to improve, 84 per cent. of the production being RSS1 as against 76·8 per cent. in 1954.

At Tiko a new crepe factory was completed and came into operation in April, and at Mukonje a renovated crepe battery was installed in August. Since that date all low grade rubber from all estates has been made into crepe.

A decision was reached to construct a new factory at Ekona, and in September a start was made on levelling the proposed site. By the end of the year the water supply was completed, and most of the factory framework erected.

The revenue from the export of rubber during the year was higher than originally estimated due to the rise in price in the world market, and the average net price per lb. obtained was 28d. as against 19·5d. in 1954.

(iv) *Cocoa*.—As reported last year, due to the late arrival of planting material about half of the 1954 planting failed, so the area was replanted in 1955 together with an additional two acres not previously planted in cocoa, bringing the total immature acreage to 20.

Production fell short of the estimates for 1955 by some 90 tons due mainly to the numerous breakdowns of the mist-blowers, which considerably reduced the control of blackpod disease, the incidence of which was lower than in previous years as a result of climatic conditions during the year and the disease control measures taken in previous years. Experimental spraying with new fungicides and insecticides was carried out with satisfactory results, and the sprayed areas were found to be largely free from insect attack and flourishing vigorously.

Some 3,500 cocoa seedlings were purchased from the Southern Cameroons Agricultural Department during the year and were used for resupplying. About 15,000 seeds were laid down in the Nursery, including 4,500 Upper Amazon obtained from the West African Cacao Research Institute. Germination has been satisfactory and the seedlings are growing well and appear to be free from disease.

(v) *Pepper*.—Of the 27 acres under immature pepper at the end of the year, 10 acres will come into bearing early in 1956, when the mature acreage will be increased to 27.

The crop of black pepper was 16,905 lbs. as compared with 13,692 lbs. in 1954. This improvement in the crop can now be expected to continue as a result of the decline of the mildew on the berries which has responded to spraying with copper fungicide.

Sun drying was continued and found satisfactory and economical.

(vi) *Tea*.—With a new and inexperienced labour force, the original development programme was over ambitious, and only a further 19 acres

were planted, bringing the total of immature to 47. Much supplying was necessary in the tea planted in 1954 and weeding up-keep proved heavier work than anticipated. In addition 10 acres of the old mature tea were rehabilitated.

The 20 acres of mature tea, thinned for seed bearing, has done very well and it is anticipated that seed will be ample for the planting of up to 100 acres annually.

As forecast last year, it was decided to build a tea factory at Tole, and the initial stages of the construction have been completed, and it is hoped to commence production towards the end of 1956.

The Corporation's Tea Consultant visited the estate in December and submitted a report.

(vii) *Research*.—The Research Division is proving a most valuable addition to the Corporation. Additional fertiliser trials have been laid down on bananas and cacao at Tombel and on young oil palms at Ekona. The results of fertilising bananas on medium productive soils again show the favourable effects of a balanced NPK fertiliser. Increases in both bunch weight and number of hands have been obtained. The preliminary results of fertilising bananas on highly productive soils seem to show similar trends.

Rubber planted at Missellele in 1952 on land cleared from virgin bush has so far shown no significant response to fertilisers.

Individual yield records were begun in May on 493 cacao trees in the fertiliser trial at Tombel, and on a further 126 trees chosen in other parts of the plantation. The object was to select high yielding parent trees among this Trinitario population to provide planting material, and already several trees have been found which show high productivity.

Experiments in earthing up the roots of banana plants have indicated that this can be an effective method for reducing both the number of plants uprooted and the total number of losses due to windstorm damage.

Further investigations were made in the control of *Trachysphaera fructigena* (Cigar End disease) with a view to ascertaining the local factors governing the seasonal incidence of the disease and the method of carry over during the dry season.

Observations on severe outbreaks of Sigatoka disease (Leaf Spot) during the year were recorded. The ascospore stage of the fungus has been found for the first time, and field experiments showed that the newly introduced Lacatan plants were also susceptible to this disease in the Cameroons.

At Tombel the Leafless Twig disease of cacao appears to be due to attacks by two insects, a Psyllid and a Jassid. Seedling and immature cacao protected from these insects by insecticidal sprays produced normal growth, and spraying trials were being extended to mature cacao.

The banana plant breeder was granted study leave to take an academic year's course in Plant Pathology at Bristol University. It is also intended that the Soil Scientist and two Research Field Assistants should receive instruction in soil survey and interpretation after the completion of the Aerial Survey of the Corporation's plantations.

Visitors to the Research Station included representatives from several firms, Government Agricultural Departments and Institutes, and Research organisations.

(viii) *Buea Farms*.—29 Friesian Montbeliard crossbred heifers calved during the year and the milking herd increased to 102 animals of which 78 were actually in milk at the close of the year. The incidence of disease was low and the Veterinary Department continued to be very helpful. The appointment of a Veterinary Assistant to the area proved of great benefit to the Farm. Of the 30,483 gallons of milk produced (an increase of some 3,000 gallons over the 1954 production) 13,422 gallons were pasteurised and sold “in bottle”, 13,110 gallons produced 6,129 lbs. of butter and the balance was fed to stock.

As a result of a decision taken in 1954, pig breeding was discontinued and the piggeries were closed down. Also on economic grounds a decision was taken to give up the production of vegetables on the Farms and concentrate only on the dairy produce. The Senior Service establishment was therefore reduced to one and the labour strength considerably curtailed.

(ix) *Timber*.—The export of Obeche logs to the United Kingdom continued throughout the year and a total of 1,340 tons was shipped. A further development was the first shipment in November of sawn timber which was well received in the United Kingdom. As it was found that road transportation of export logs from the Ekona area to Tiko was more economical than rafting, a new short access road was constructed to enable timber vehicles to be driven down to the Tiko rafting station. Surveys of timber continued throughout the year and it is considered that the survey is now 50 per cent. completed. The resources enumerated to date amount to some 5½ million cubic feet, of which more than half is fit for export.

More than 70,000 pit sawn Obeche weather boards were produced for the construction of labour lines and a large quantity of logs was floated from Mukonje to Tiko for saw milling. 1,293 acres of land were cleared of economic trees in connection with the Agricultural Development programme carried out during the year.

VII. Production.

Comparative figures of production for the last six years are as follows:—

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
<i>Bananas</i> —Total for British						
Cameroons:						
Shipments stems	4,680,419	5,773,208	5,746,946	5,893,294	5,666,901	4,394,851
Cameroons Development Corporation Estates:						
Shipments „	2,666,775	3,609,906	3,743,801	3,846,585	3,904,863	3,034,222
<i>Dried Bananas</i> tons	13	256	234	124	22	102
<i>Palm Oil</i> „	2,077	2,463	2,593	2,715	2,862	3,349
<i>Palm Kernels</i> „	1,157	1,265	1,576	1,712	1,739	2,010
<i>Rubber</i> „	1,324	1,606	1,559	1,800	1,595	1,525
<i>Cocoa</i> „	87	83	81	81	100	110
<i>Pepper</i> „	1.0	1.5	2.6	2.5	6.1	7.5
<i>Milk</i> gals.	15,272	24,870	30,086	26,482	27,299	30,483
<i>Timber (Shipments)</i> .. tons	—	—	—	—	421	1,340

VIII. Joint Activities with Elders & Fyffes Ltd.

Previous arrangements with Elders & Fyffes Ltd. for the conduct of the joint railway and hospital activities at Tiko continued.

IX. Engineering.

A. Civil.

(i) *Staff*.—For the greater part of the year the establishment was at full strength, but in view of the decreasing volume of constructional work, corresponding decreases in staff are being made.

(ii) *Staff Housing*.—The following Senior Service houses were completed during the year either by direct labour and supervision, under contract or departmentally by Plantation Staff:—

- 7 P.W.D. Type Houses at Bota, Ekona and Molyko;
- 6 Semi-Permanent Houses at Ekona, Ngeme, Moliwe, N'Sonne Moliwe and Mussaka;
- 2 Plantation Managers' Houses at Tombel and Idenau;
- 3 Plantation Type Houses at Idenau;
- 1 Chalet at Bota.

Two houses in Tiko were also converted, one into two self-contained flats and the other into a catering Rest House. 12 Intermediate Service Houses were built at Tiko (4), Bota (5) and Ekona (3).

(iii) *Social, Education and Welfare Buildings*.—The building of the community halls at Tiko and Ekona, which was commenced in 1954, was completed. Two combined kindergarten schools and churches at Bota and Tiko were constructed and consecrated by the Bishop on the Niger in November. A plantation school at M'bonge was completed, as was the extension to the Bota school, and a decision regarding the continuation of the phased school construction programme was deferred until March 1956.

The Senior Service Club at Ekona was officially opened.

(iv) *Hospitals and Medical Buildings*.—The hospital at M'bonge was completed as was the hospital at Idenau except for the conversion of certain existing outbuildings into kitchen and laundry units. The extensions to the Ekona hospital and the Tiko Cottage Hospital were also completed, and an administration block was constructed at Tiko Hospital.

(v) *Factory and Workshop Buildings and Offices*.—At Tiko a new Marine Office, Marine Store, workshop and labour latrine were constructed to serve the new wharf, the final screeding of which was carried out during the slack season without dislocation of shipping. Petrol filling stations were erected at Tiko and Ekona for supplying Corporation vehicles and for sales to the general public.

The construction of the new General Office at Bota was completed by the contractors at the end of the year, and the move of the main Divisional offices into this centralised office will be made early in 1956.

At the Plant Yard in Tiko, the construction of which was completed during the year, the overhaul of the Corporation's plant was reorganised as was the system of issuing it to plantations, with the result that routine maintenance is done more efficiently and regularly, the condition of the plant is much improved and a greater output obtained.

(vi) *Labour Lines*.—The main labour line programme was at Idenau where permanent houses in blockwork with Arcon roofs were being constructed. The camps at Scipio, Rechsfluss and Sanje were completed ahead of schedule, a total of 460 rooms. Work commenced on the Bibundi camp which will complete the labour line programme for Idenau.

Semi-permanent lines were built at Ekona under contract and in all some 380 rooms were built in this area. At Bolifamba work commenced on a camp of 180 rooms and by the end of the year some forty rooms were complete and ready for occupation.

At N'sonne Moliwe 100 rooms were completed in semi-permanent construction and a further 60 rooms commenced at Ebondje.

At Buea 5 Junior Service two-roomed houses were constructed and occupied.

At M'bonge the scheme for 100 rooms was completed and two teachers' quarters constructed.

In the Bota area 49 aqua privies were constructed, in Ekona 11, and in Tiko work was commenced on the construction of a further 60.

(vii) *Roads and Communications*.—At Idenau the Bibundi Bridge was completed and put into operation as a combined road-rail bridge of two 120-foot spans on concrete abutments.

The Sanje Bridge, which collapsed owing to the undermining of the central pier by excessive floods, was rebuilt as one span of 120 feet in place of the original two 60-foot spans.

The two salvaged 60-foot spans were reconditioned at Tiko, and one has been re-erected on the N'sonne Moliwe plantation at Luma whilst the second span is to be used on the Tiko-M'Pundu railway.

The following roads were constructed during the year:—

- (a) Road to Small Beach to give access for log exporting.
- (b) Roads to the Ekona Senior Service housing estate.
- (c) A road to Tiko General Hospital to allow road vehicles direct access to the hospital. Previously the only access was by rail.

(viii) *Railways*.—Work commenced on the Tiko-M'Pundu railway which will link Ekona directly with Tiko by rail and enable Ekona bananas to be taken by rail direct to the ship. The start of the work was delayed owing to the late rains, but work is progressing steadily and it is hoped to have the track in operation by the start of the 1956 rains.

The railway was extended for some 1½ miles into Moliwe Black Bush for timber extraction.

A small extension to Moliwe sidings was laid down.

(ix) *Water Supplies*.—The water supply schemes at Idenau, Ekona, Tombel and Mukonje were all put in hand in 1955 and are nearing completion.

B. Mechanical Transport.

The Corporation had 299 vehicles in service at the end of the year. The replacement programme continued and 51 vehicles were withdrawn from service and replaced with current models. The majority of those withdrawn were Pick-Ups, Vans, and Saloons, which were replaced with Austin "Countryman" and "Champ" vehicles, and considerable reductions in maintenance and repair costs were made. Towards the end of the year, a start was made in replacing the fleet of 120 petrol engined lorries with diesel engined vehicles.

The vehicles withdrawn from service were sold by public auction and fetched approximately £7,000. Sales of new vehicles to the public fell from £64,500 in 1954, to £40,260 in 1955, but sales of spares increased from £22,400 to £27,200, and repairs to the value of £10,600 were carried out for the public in Corporation workshops.

C. Electrical.

In Bota the overhead system of distribution in Middle Farm was replaced by an underground system and a new 200-kVA transformer installed to replace the one which was on loan from the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria. H.T. Panel switchgear was installed in Tiko and a 3.3-kV supply by underground cable was run from the main sub-station to a 50-kVA transformer at the Water Works thus enabling the pole-mounting transformer to be removed and reinstalled at Molyko.

A 3.3-kV supply by underground cable was run to Tiko Hospital from the workshops sub-station to supply a 50 kVA transformer.

One of the Paxman sets from the Joinery Workshops sub-station was removed and is now in commission as stand-by plant at Tiko Wharf.

At Tombel the old distribution system was replaced by a new overhead system. It is now in commission with temporary switchgear until the special interlocking switchgear is received. A new power house has been built for the power plant which was removed from Tiko wharf and this is also in commission.

Load tests at Mukonje were carried out during the year on the two turbines at Bekili and it was proved both machines are capable of delivering 240 kilowatts with sufficient water available. One of the machines was overhauled and new runner and wear plates fitted.

The installation of the Buea Dairy Cold Room was completed during the year and extensions were carried out to Bota Cold Store.

The automatic telephone exchange sited in the new Head Office was commissioned but is not yet complete as the delivery of tie-line equipment had not been received.

A complete review of the telephone distribution in the Bota area was initiated towards the end of the year, a start being made by re-routing the lines in Middle Farm. It is expected that when the work is complete the telephone system generally will be more efficient and the maintenance costs reduced.

The installation of a 10-line magneto exchange was completed at M'bonge, as also was a line from Tombel Wharf to Tombel and communication is now possible between the wharf and the estate.

Bota Radio Telephone has been fitted with crystals received from Pamol Ltd., and it is now possible to communicate with their estates at Bwinga, Lobe and Calabar.

X. Marine and Shipping.

During the year the Corporation continued to handle the majority of Southern Cameroons' imports and exports and passenger traffic.

Capital works at the Port of Tiko were completed during the year and the Port Area was gazetted a Customs Area in a like manner to the Wharf Area at Bota.

There was an overall increase in inward and outward cargo handlings of some 7,000 tons in comparison with the previous year and the 1955 tonnages constituted the highest of any year so far. The Port of Tiko handled 84 main line vessels and Bota dealt with 194, an average of 23 ships a month between the two ports.

The Corporation's fleet of inland water and seagoing craft at the close of the year was as follows:—

Single screw seagoing tugs	..	..	6
Single screw motor lighters	..	..	8
Twin screw river towing launches	..		6
Single screw river towing launches	..		8
Seagoing dumb barges	..	..	13
River dumb barges	..	..	29
Lifesaving craft	..	..	4
Total	..		74

These craft continued to be used for the lighterage of cargo to and from main line vessels and also for the transport of cargo between Bota and Tiko and 19 plantation wharves which lie on the Mungo and Meme Rivers and adjacent creeks and along the coast line lying between the Rio del Rey and the Bimbria River. During the year over 19,000 tons of cargo was transported between these wharves.

A single screw diesel engined Palm Oil barge of a capacity of 50 tons was placed on order during the year and delivery of this vessel is expected in September, 1956.

The Corporation continued to act as Agent for Elder Dempster Lines Limited and Palm Line Limited, two members of the West African Shipping Conference.

Ocean vessels were handled in Tiko Upper and Lower Pools in the Bimbria River on occasions when the Wharf at Tiko was occupied and the tides and the nature of the cargo permitted and during the year 1,340 tons of logs were shipped from Tiko.

Largely as a result of the fall in banana production during the year stems of fruit evacuated direct by lighter from plantations to banana ships amounted to 1,267,150, equivalent to 41 per cent. of the Corporation banana shipments, a reduction of 758,154 on the previous year's lighterage figures.

Training classes for floating staff were held throughout the year as often as commitments afloat and the availability of Senior Service personnel permitted and further members of the floating staff received Certificates of Competency issued under the Regulations to the Shipping and Navigation Ordinance.

Major refits and periodical slippings of seagoing craft were handled at Bota by the Marine Workshops and the Tiko Marine Workshops at Small Beach attended to similar works in respect of inland water craft.

A portion of the Nigerian Marine Dockyard at Victoria continued to be leased from Government.

SUMMARY OF TRADE AT BOTA AND TIKO PORTS 1948—1955 INCLUSIVE.

PORT	INWARD CARGO Tons	OUTWARD CARGO (excluding bananas) Tons	CREEK SAILINGS (excluding bananas) Tons	BANANAS EXPORTED Stems	PASSENGERS		VEHICLES	BAGS OF MAIL
					SAL- OON	DECK		
BOTA	32,325	14,088	12,308	} 4,394,851	319	4,460	174	6,895
TIKO	16,344	2,215	7,069		431	675	129	1,119
TOTAL 1955	48,669	16,303	19,377	4,394,851	750	5,135	303	8,014
TOTAL 1954	45,834	12,304	16,772	5,666,901	927	4,293	281	7,149
TOTAL 1953	35,528	11,347	10,003	5,893,294	968	5,311	245	7,863
TOTAL 1952	41,995	11,617	13,565	5,747,040	1,017	6,885	310	6,555
TOTAL 1951	32,423	8,213	12,535	5,773,208	704	7,761	187	6,134
TOTAL 1950	28,459	8,508	13,502	4,680,419	530	6,556	195	4,929
TOTAL 1949	21,193	7,774	6,825	5,137,600	877	3,896	187	3,560
TOTAL 1948	13,273	5,262	9,598	4,078,408	599	6,828	143	3,178

XI. Staff and Labour.

(i) *Establishment*.—The Senior Service strength increased during the year by nine, of whom six were Africans. Of these latter three Nursing

Sisters and one graduate Field Assistant were appointed direct to the Corporation staff, and two promotions from Intermediate Service were made. One employee was promoted as a Building Supervisor, and another as an Administrative Assistant. It is the Corporation's policy to promote the maximum number of employees to responsible positions, when they can show by qualifications and experience that they are able to accept the additional responsibility. Employees promoted to Intermediate Service during the year 1954 were considered after their first year's probation and their appointments were confirmed. The number of staff in the Intermediate Service increased by eight. 213 appointments were made to the Junior Service, or to positions subject to monthly agreements, during the year. The position on the 31st December, 1955, was as follows:—

Senior Service	229
Intermediate Service	44
Junior Service, including employees on monthly agreements	1,236
General Labour Force	21,664

(ii) *Wages and Conditions of Service.*—Early in January the C.D.C. Workers' Union submitted a claim for increased wages and salaries for all employees. This claim was considered by the Corporation at its March and June meetings, but in the absence of any evidence that there was an increase in the cost of living, which was the basis of the claim, the Corporation was unable to accede to any increase. Early in August a strike took place involving a proportion of the Corporation's employees, and as a result of this a Trade Dispute was declared. Talks took place between the Management and the Executive of the Union under the Chairmanship of a Government Labour Officer. After prolonged discussions the gap between the parties was narrowed, but final agreement could not be reached and it was mutually decided to refer the matter to Arbitration. The Arbitrator appointed was Dr. Eni Njoku from Ibadan University, who conducted hearings, assisted by two Assessors, in Buca on 11th, 12th and 13th October, 1955. The Award of the Arbitrator was published on November 11th when an increase of 5d. per day to General Labour and proportionate increases to other grades was announced. The annual cost of the award to the Corporation, together with increases in the salaries of Senior Service staff, is estimated to be £180,000. The Arbitrator took note of the Corporation's submissions that certain amenities previously provided should either be withdrawn or amended. Consequently the subsidies on foodstuffs, which are sold direct to employees are no longer in operation, but the Corporation will continue to make available such commodities as it can at economic rates. An alteration in the method of calculation of leave expenses was also awarded and in future employees will be given a flat rate, according to their grade, instead of the previous mileage rate. The Corporation has decided to introduce a charge for school fees and this will be operative as from 1st January, 1956. The revision of the salary structure referred to last year has been completed and was introduced on 1st April, 1955. This was well received by all employees.

(iii) *Cameroons Development Corporation Workers' Union.*—The previous amicable relationship between the Workers' Union and the

Management deteriorated towards the middle of the year, due partly to the Union's attitude regarding their wage claim, and partly to internal dissension within the Union. The Consultative Committee met only once early in March when the items discussed were:—

- (a) Leave travelling expenses.
- (b) Maternity Leave.
- (c) Conditions of Service—Teachers.
- (d) Housing.
- (e) Leave of Absence.
- (f) Tools Allowance.
- (g) Introduction of P.A.Y.E. system of Income Tax.

Individual cases numbering forty-five were dealt with by direct negotiations between representatives of the Union and the Personnel Division.

(iv) *Senior Service Staff Committee*.—The Senior Service Staff Committee met on a number of occasions during the year and made recommendations and suggestions with regard to conditions of service at a meeting held with the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Corporation.

(v) *Housing*.—Progress continued to be made in the provision of new and improved housing for all grades of the Corporation staff, details of which are set out under the Section of the Report dealing with Engineering.

(vi) *Workers' Shops*.—Sales through the Corporation's 21 Workers' Shops showed a turnover of £157,250, an increase of some £18,000, as compared with 1954. This organisation which is in no way subsidised by the Corporation continued to provide a very satisfactory service in maintaining supplies of essential commodities on all estates thus keeping the prices in the local markets steady with beneficial results on the cost of living generally.

(vii) *Provident Fund*.—All members of the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Service, as well as many monthly paid employees, for whom membership is voluntary, were members of the Corporation's Provident Fund. The members of the Fund must contribute a minimum of 10 per cent. of their salaries and may contribute up to a maximum of 15 per cent. The Corporation contributes to the Fund 15 per cent. of the salaries of each of the members. At the close of 1955 there were 1,080 members of the Fund, the market value of the Fund's investments being £268,470 5s. 0d.

(viii) *Retiring Gratuities*.—Employees who are not members of the Provident Fund but who have served the Corporation for a minimum of five years' continuous service, are considered for the award of a retiring gratuity when the employee retires as a result of old age or infirmity. During the year 333 gratuities, amounting to £8,806 18s. 9d., were approved. This is a decrease of 198 cases and £3,212 6s. 4d. on the awards approved in the previous year. In addition to the gratuities for service with the Corporation, *ex gratia* payments are available to employees in respect of their service on the Plantations prior to the formation of the Corporation. Payments to 234 employees amounting to £2,392 12s. 3d. were authorised during the year. This is a decrease of 186 cases and £889 10s. 1d. as compared with 1954.

XII. Welfare and Social Services.

(i) *Recreation*.—The organisation of recreational activities is now well established, with 31 playing fields, permanent community halls in the main centres and temporary ones in several others, and a good range and stock of equipment. The results of this organisation and the popularity of these activities are reflected in the fact that Corporation teams won the Commissioner's Cup and the United African Company's Cup, both awarded for football, and in the newly donated Courben Cup for Corporation teams only, 47 teams took part. In addition, the teams selected to play representative games against teams from other territories organised by the Southern Cameroons Amateur Football Association, were composed largely of Corporation players.

In the Southern Cameroons Amateur Athletic Association Championships Corporation teams took second and third places, with one competitor winning the High Jump event with a new local record of 5 ft. 8 in.

For the first time at the Corporation's own athletic meetings special events were included for women, and, judging by the number of entries, this proved a popular innovation.

Several boxing tournaments were held, and the standard of ringcraft and sportsmanship continues to improve.

(ii) *News Sheet*.—The Welfare News Letter was published regularly each fortnight, and due largely to contributions sent in from all areas, its size has been increased. The publication of "Planter's Punch" also continued throughout the year.

(iii) *Film Unit*.—As usual, during the wet season, it was not possible on all occasions for a mobile cinema unit to visit some of the more remote camps, due to difficult transport conditions. Altogether, however, a total of 708 shows was given in the Corporation's various camps to an estimated audience of 248,000 and 164 shows were given in Messrs. Elders & Fyffes' camps to an estimated audience of 58,000. At the beginning of the year, the Elders & Fyffes' unit was taken over and transferred to the Film Unit Headquarters at Ekona, and the cinematograph and public address requirements of Elders & Fyffes are now handled entirely by the Unit on a repayment basis.

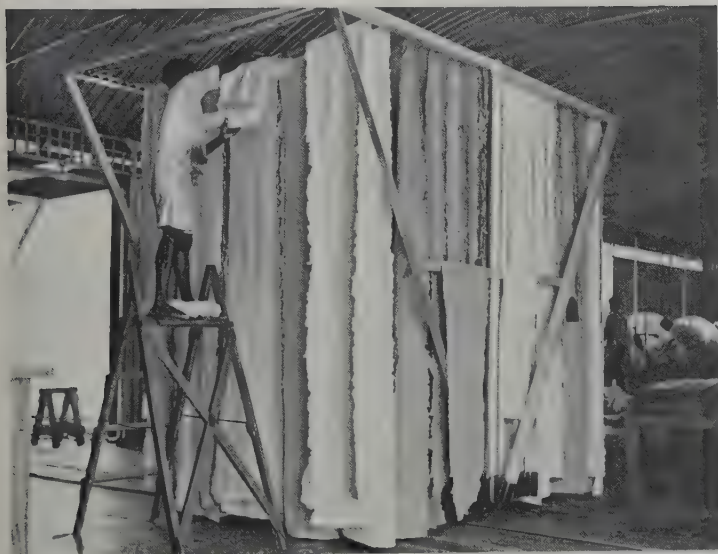
In addition, several exhibitions of medical and surgical films were given to the Corporation's medical officers and nursing staff. Facilities were also provided on a number of occasions for films to be seen by a viewing committee of the Cameroons Film Censorship Board.

Amplifier equipment was provided for 116 "High Life" dances, and public address installations were made on 13 occasions for sports functions. In addition public address equipment was installed on Tiko Airport, at the request of the Southern Cameroons Government in January, on the occasion of the official visit of the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The work of the repair section increased considerably, and apart from the repair and maintenance of cinema projectors belonging to the Corporation, the maintenance and repair of similar equipment for other organisations continued on an increasing scale. The section also carried out repairs and overhauls to radio telephone equipment and domestic



Tiko Crepe Rubber Factory



Tiko Crepe Rubber Factory .



View of Tole Tea Estate



Diathene Wrapping of Bananas



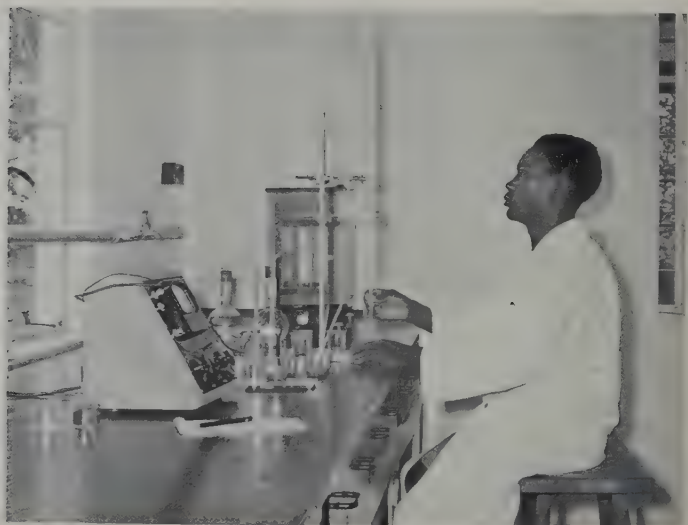
Idenau Bridge



New Oil Mill, Idenau



New Head Office, Bota



Testing Acidity of Soil

receivers on a repayment basis for other organisations. Under this heading, over 200 items of cinema, radio telephone, and domestic radio equipment were handled.

The Photographic Section worked to capacity throughout the year and full use of the service was made by other departments of the Corporation particularly in agricultural research. As a result of the increasing demand, the facilities are to be extended to permit the production of colour and micro-photographs which, it is considered, will be of considerable value in the investigation of plant diseases, and in the training of the field staff.

(iv) *Markets*.—The services of the Food Supply Assistant were terminated, and the various administrative areas became responsible for obtaining their own food supplies for labour, without experiencing any difficulties and at reduced costs.

(v) *Welfare Expenditure*.—The Corporation's recurrent expenditure on welfare and social services during 1955 was £72,083. In addition, capital expenditure on schools, community halls, etc., exceeded £44,000 including work in progress.

XIII. Education.

(i) *Primary Education*.—In 1955 new schools were opened at Boa and Molyko. The Corporation now owns and manages ten schools, two of which, at Bota and Tiko, respectively, have double "streams". In addition the Corporation owns four schools which are managed by the Missions.

In 1955, as in previous years, free education has been provided for true children of Corporation employees. Rather more than 1,100 children were enrolled in schools owned and managed by the Corporation, as compared with about 750 in 1954. About 420 children were enrolled in the four schools owned by the Corporation and managed by Missions. Finally, about 1,750 children eligible for Primary education at Corporation expense have their fees paid in non-Corporation schools, making a total number of children receiving Primary education at Corporation expense, of rather less than 3,300.

By the third term 1955, free meals were being provided for all the children in schools owned and managed by the Corporation.

The staffing of the schools under Corporation management continues to be very satisfactory. Of the 39 teachers employed by the Corporation, 32 have received professional training, or about 80 per cent. of all the teachers. 25 of the teachers (64 per cent.) are certificated. 14 of the teachers (36 per cent.) are women, of whom all except one have received professional training and ten are certificated.

In October, 1955, two schools were opened for the children of Senior Service staff, one at Bota and the other at Tiko. These schools are conducted on Parents' National Educational Union lines and each is in the charge of an English mistress with a professional qualification, recommended to the Corporation by the Parents' National Educational Union.

(ii) *Scholarships*.—For the past few years the Corporation has provided annually £5,000 for awards to Cameroonians pursuing courses of higher education. With the establishment of a Southern Cameroons

Government and the setting-up of a Southern Cameroons Scholarship Board, the functions and commitments of the former awarding committee have been taken over by the new Scholarship Board, and the Corporation now makes an annual grant of £5,000 to this Body.

The Corporation no longer awards special secondary school scholarships for the children of its employees. Instead, it hands over to the Southern Cameroons Scholarship Board the amount of money it would previously have disbursed in this way, thus enabling all Cameroonian schoolchildren to compete for these scholarships.

Children of employees are, however, still awarded scholarships by the Corporation for courses at Ombe Government Trade Centre at Secondary Technical level. Four such awards were made in 1955.

Employees of at least two years' standing may apply for scholarships for higher education or further technical training. Normally, these are only awarded in cases where the training will enhance the usefulness of the employee to the Corporation after training. Non-employees, however, as well as teachers already in Corporation employment, are accepted for teacher-training. In 1955 awards on this basis were:—

Radiology	..	..	..	..	1
Teacher training	..	..	..	..	10

To date, further training has been offered to 42 employees as follows:—

Government Trade Centre, Ombe	..	27
Pharmacy		3
Sanitary		2
Accountancy		1
Agricultural Chemistry		1
Science		1
Teacher training (employees only)	..	6
Radiology		1

In addition, 32 teacher-training scholarships have been awarded to non-employees.

(iii) *Adult Education*.—Evening literacy classes were held three times per week in three grades, those reaching the top grade being allowed to take an examination prior to the award of literacy certificates. During the course of the year there were approximately 1,100 employees regularly attending 166 classes in 66 centres, supervised by four full-time Adult Education Organisers, all of whom were trained, certificated teachers. Six Headmasters and two teachers in Corporation schools have also assisted in this supervision.

(iv) *Further Training of Monthly-Paid and Junior Service Employees*.—Classes in English and Arithmetic are also held for employees who have completed the Senior Primary School Course, mainly office workers, leading to the Elementary examination of the Royal Society of Arts. 57 employees from classes at Bota, Tiko and Moliwe, compared with 37 the previous year, have sat these examinations in July, of whom 10 passed in English and 13 passed in Arithmetic. By the end of the year a further 120 pupils in six centres were preparing for the 1956 examinations.

One purpose of these classes is to improve the general education of employees prior to admitting them to more advanced technical courses in book-keeping, office routine or typing. In July, 49 employees from Bota and Tiko sat the Intermediate Examination in book-keeping of the Royal Society of Arts, of whom 13 were successful. By the end of the year, a further 38 employees were attending book-keeping classes at Bota and Tiko in preparation for the 1956 book-keeping examinations of the Royal Society of Arts. 16 employees were also taking a course in Office Routine.

Technical classes in carpentry, motor mechanics, engineering, fuel pump maintenance, craft-repair and a course for quartermasters were also held for about 100 employees.

These classes are tutored by Senior Service volunteers.

(v) *Promotion Examinations.*—In May, 1955, a series of promotion examinations for employees were held, thus providing a more objective criterion than hitherto as to which employees are qualified for promotion. In particular, these examinations have given an opportunity to employees to prove their fitness to enter a grade higher than that to which their previous education would normally have entitled them. At all levels, the examination consists of papers in English and Arithmetic and a Departmental paper of a technical nature. These examinations serve the additional purpose of stimulating employees to improve their general education. 334 employees availed themselves of the opportunity to enter for these examinations at various levels, of whom 36 were successful.

(vi) Eighteen library boxes, each containing approximately 70 books, to suit employees at various educational levels, are circulated on the Corporation estates and reading rooms are provided in the main centres.

XIV. Medical.

During 1955 there was a reduction in the amount of serious illness amongst the employees and their families, the two main hospitals at Tiko and Bota both showing a decrease in the number of in-patients. This is as it should be. The Aid posts by treating minor cuts, injuries and illnesses at an early stage contributed very considerably to the decrease in morbidity figures, although this cannot be the only contributory factor. The other factors which have led to a reduction in major illnesses are improved diets and greater variety of food. In the areas where the standards of housing have been considerably improved the decrease in sickness is more marked than elsewhere.

Another notable advance during the year was the elimination of the waiting list for operations which was a legacy rising from inadequate examination of recruits in the early years of the life of the Corporation.

At Tiko a new ward was opened as a maternity unit and the previous unsatisfactory unit was converted into a children's ward. An old isolation block was converted for use by the Nurses Preliminary Training School and an extension, including an isolation ward, was added to the Cottage Hospital.

The training of nursing staff was continued and two original students of the pre-preliminary nursing school era succeeded in gaining their Nigerian registration. Thirteen students sat for their final examination in December and the results are awaited. Two newly qualified pharmacists

trained at the Corporation's expense joined the Medical Division in July but the attraction of private practice has resulted in one of them leaving. Considerable difficulty is being found in obtaining qualified pharmacists and once they are obtained in retaining their services. As hitherto, the Doctor attached to the Pamol Ltd. plantation at Lobe continued to supervise the medical administration of the Corporation's plantations in the Meme River area and this is reciprocated by the Corporation attending to the medical requirements of Pamol Ltd. Estate, Bwinga, near Tiko. For medical purposes the Corporation's estates are divided into four areas and until towards the end of 1955 the staff and family at risk varied little from that obtaining in the previous year but there was a reduction in the labour force in the last two months of 1955 which considerably reduced the numbers at risk.

The Corporation's Hospitals and ancillary institutions available are as follows:—

- Bota Area:* Bota General Hospital with 94 beds including 6 isolation.
Auxiliary Hospital Idenau with 12 beds.
10 Aid Posts.
- Ekona Area:* Ekona General Hospital with 77 beds including 8 isolation.
7 Aid Posts.
- Mukonje Area:* Mukonje General Hospital with 39 beds including 4 isolation.
Tombel Auxiliary Hospital with 16 beds.
M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital with 10 beds.
12 Aid Posts.
- Tiko Area:* Cottage Hospital for Senior Service Staff with 16 beds.
General Hospital with 193 beds and 10 cots.
Missellele Auxiliary Hospital with 29 beds and 6 isolation.
United Africa Company's Hospital Bwinga with 8 beds.
18 Aid Posts.

SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS

	Out-patients		In-patients	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Bota General Hospital	9,979	3,904	1,373	1,029
Tiko General Hospital	37,440	7,425	2,819	1,153
Cottage Hospital	624	708	38	68
Ekona General Hospital	40,552	9,388	1,360	663
Mukonje General Hospital	8,342	3,156	720	204
Idenau Auxiliary Hospital	42,756	3,588	189	19
M'bonge Auxiliary Hospital	5,398	1,376	334	27
Tombel Auxiliary Hospital	9,207	1,003	402	53
Missellele Auxiliary Hospital	11,945	582	396	56

During the year 52 major, 250 intermediate and 987 minor operations were performed whilst a large number of applicants for employment were examined, of which number 1,698 were rejected, the common cause of rejection being herniae. The hopes of eradicating *Simulium damnosum* from the main areas in the Victoria Division were not fulfilled as it was only possible to arrange for a limited period for a medical officer to conduct a survey and investigation of methods of reduction. Whilst the survey was completed no economical method of simultaneously treating all the streams was evolved, until towards the end of the year when a simple method which can be carried out by unskilled labour was evolved and will be put into practice early in 1956.

A new insecticide was put into use in the Ekona area in November, and it is understood that the residual effect of this insecticide persists for at least twelve months. Should the experiment prove satisfactory it is intended that it should be introduced into all areas and as a consequence greatly reduce the cost of protection against insect-borne diseases.

There was no serious epidemic during the year and not a single case of smallpox. No less than 36,069 anti-smallpox vaccinations were effected by the staff during the year.

The main diseases which were treated were gastro-intestinal and pulmonary. There were very few cases of tropical ulcers which is attributed to improved nutrition and early treatment at the Aid Posts, the growing use of footwear having also contributed to the decrease.

Recurrent expenditure for medical services was £122,187 and contributions of £16,660 were received from other estates using the services of the Corporation's Medical Division. Capital Expenditure during 1955 was £39,220 which includes work in progress.

XV. Finance: Results to 31st December, 1955.

The Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1955, shows Fixed Assets (including Motor Vehicles and Work in Progress) at £2,509,549, against which there are outstanding Loans of £1,825,489. The surplus on Capital Account is thus £684,060.

Liquid Assets amount to £1,445,738 against which there are Creditors for £672,377, leaving a surplus of £773,361.

As the Corporation commenced business without any working capital these surpluses, amounting to £1,457,421, have been derived from profits. They have been reached after having borne the whole cost of new planting, re-planting and upkeep of immature areas £990,069, and Statutory Depreciation on buildings, roads, railways, plant and machinery, etc., amounting to £2,288,865.

Reserves of £835,636 in excess of the Statutory Allowances have been charged to Profit and Loss Account.

There has also been distributed from Profits:—

Income Tax	£1,613,345
Transferred to Government for the benefit of the Cameroons, Notional Profits amounting to	316,349

Paid to Government towards liquidation of Government's initial outlay of approxi- mately £800,000					335,016
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The Members of the Corporation record their appreciation of the services rendered by the staff at all levels and by the labour force which has been so essential to the progress made. The Corporation also desires to record its appreciation of the assistance and advice provided by many Government Departments and Government Officers.

(Signed) A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS, *Member.*

E. K. MARTIN, *Member.*

J. FINDLAY, *Member.*

W. L. BLOOMFIELD, *Member.*

GALEGA II, FON OF BALI, *Member.*

N. N. MBILE, *Member.*

J. MURRAY, *Member.*

A. C. WOOD, *Secretary.*

CAMEROONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Analysis of Employees by Tribes, as at 31st December, 1955.

<i>Tribe.</i>	<i>No. Employed.</i>	<i>Tribe.</i>	<i>No. Employed.</i>
VICTORIA DIV.		BAMENDA	
Bakolle	4	Aghem (Wum)	1,133
Bakweri	957	Bafut	883
Balong	22	Bali	657
Bamboko	8	Baba-Befang	276
Isubu (Bimbia)	29	Bum	193
Mongo	8	Esimbi	23
		Fungom	604
	1,028	Kaka	341
		Kom (Bikom)	473
KUMBA DIV.		Mambila	28
Bafo (Bafaw)	29	Mbembe	42
Bakosi	304	Menemo	784
Balue	386	Mfumte	16
Balundu	262	Misaje	14
Balundu-Badiko	50	Moghamo	326
Bamboko	10	Ndop	370
Barombi	144	Ngemba	485
Basosi	78	Ngie	559
Bima	47	Ngwaw (Ngono)	461
Ekumbe	5	Nso (Banso)	133
Elong	23	Nsungli	164
Korup	9		
Masaka	3		7,965
Muambong	4		
M'bonge	377	NIGERIA	
Ngolo-Batanga	571	Boki	264
Ninong	16	Edo (includes Bini)	8
North Bakundu	64	Efik-Ibibio	2,045
North Balong	30	Fulani	3
(near Manyemen)		Hausa	4
South Bakundu	5	Ibo	2,695
South Balong	9	Ijaw	17
(near Mundame)		Tiv	600
		Yoruba	19
	2,426	Other Nigerians	361
MAMFE DIV.			6,016
Assumbo	42		
Bangwa	331	FRENCH CAMEROONS	
Banyangi	835	Bafia	81
Boki	43	Bakoko	74
Ekwe	12	Bamiloke	165
Keaka	583	Bana	164
Mbo	195	Basa	100
Mbulu	137	Duala	34
Menka	342	Ewonde (Yaunde)	270
Mundani	64	Other French Cameroons	481
Obang	114		
Takamanda	45		1,369
Widekum	63	Other non-Nigerians	54
	2,806	TOTAL	21,664

ACREAGE STATISTICS, DECEMBER, 1955—PRINCIPAL CROPS

(All areas are excluded which are not in active cultivation or harvesting)

BANANAS (ACRES)

	Mature	New Planting 1955	Total	Preparation for 1956 planting
Tiko Area	6,900	407	7,307	317
Bota/West Coast Area ..	4,448	109	4,557	230
Ekona Area	6,239	439	6,678	1,400
Tombel Area	2,320	410	2,730	430
Meme Area	3,056	177	3,233	823
Mukonje Area	—	—	—	250
Total	22,963 (a)	1,542	24,505	3,450

(a) Includes 805 acres Replanting.

RUBBER (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1956 planting
Tiko/Missellele Area ..	4,582	2,610	7,192	500
Moliwe Area	1,339	—	1,339	—
Ekona Area	1,297	1,424	2,721	100
Mukonje Area	2,515	2,867	5,382	640
Total	9,733	6,901	16,634	1,240 (b)

(b) Includes 700 acres Replanting.

PALMS (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1956 planting
Bota/West Coast Area ..	8,805	4,496	13,301	1,100
Ekona Area	2,237	—	2,237	—
M'bonge	1,444	—	1,444	—
Ikassa	1,149	—	1,149	—
Total	13,635	4,496	18,131	1,100 (c)

(c) Includes 800 acres Replanting.

COCOA (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1956 planting
Tombel	1,065	20	1,085	30

TEA (ACRES)

	Mature	Immature	Total	Preparation for 1956 planting
Tole	61	47	108	50

CAMEROONS DEVELOP

(Incorporated under Nigerian

BALANCE SHEET AS

31.12.1954

£	LIABILITIES.	£	£
	RESERVE in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946:—		
	For Hospitals, Dispensaries, Medical Equipment, Educational Facilities, Port Facilities, Rehousing, Replanting, Hurricane Risks ...		500,000
500,000			
—	RESERVE for Depreciation written off in excess of amounts allowed under Income Tax Ordinance ...		835,636
	RESERVE for Retiring Gratuities to Workers not Members of Provident Fund	100,000	
	Less: Payments during the year	11,550	
		88,450	
100,000	Add: Transfer from Profit and Loss	11,550	100,000
	LOANS (unsecured, repayable by instalments):—		
500,000	Government of Nigeria (final instalment 6th December, 1970)	500,000	
500,000	Government of Nigeria (final instalment 21st July, 1969)	475,489	
—	Government of Nigeria (final instalment July, 1975)	550,000	
350,000	Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd. (final instalment 29th May, 1961)	300,000	1,825,489
	CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS:—		
—	Trade Creditors, Wages and Other Expenses ...	419,173	
—	Leave and Passages	50,000	
	Income Tax:—		
675,015	Liability for 1955/56 Assessment (Balance due)...	69,783	538,956
—	BANK OVERDRAFTS		183,421
19,205	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		—

£2,644,220

Carried forward ...

£3,983,502

MENT CORPORATION.

Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)

AT 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

31.12.1954	ASSETS.	£	£	£
		<i>Cost to</i>	<i>Additions</i>	<i>Cost to</i>
		<i>31.12.1954</i>	<i>during 1955</i>	<i>31.12.1955</i>
IMPROVEMENTS TO LEASEHOLD CONCESSIONS:—				
Plantations—				
	New Development	810,823	179,246	990,069
	Buildings and Constructions	2,231,162	503,855	2,735,017
	Roads	143,544	83,357	226,901
	Rail Track	44,554	21,159	65,713
	Furniture and Equipment	155,988	42,790	198,778
		3,386,071	830,407	4,216,478
EQUIPMENT:—				
	Plant and Machinery	403,628	146,071	549,699
	Railway Rolling Stock	157,198	7,045	164,243
	Marine Craft	240,911	—	240,911
		4,187,808	983,523	5,171,331
	<i>Less: Cost of Assets retired 1955 ...</i>			5,960
				5,165,371
	<i>Less: Amounts written off to 31st December, 1955, calculated under the Provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance ...</i>			3,086,752
952,415				2,078,619
MOTOR VEHICLES:—				
	Cost to 31st December, 1954	211,128		
	Add: Additions during year	49,604		
		260,732		
	<i>Less: Cost of Vehicles retired ...</i>	33,648		
			227,084	
	<i>Less: Amounts written off to 31st December, 1955, calculated under the Provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance ...</i>			
32,943			192,182	
				34,902
WORK IN PROGRESS (at cost):—				
26,757	Planting		79,685	
311,279	Buildings and Constructions		232,364	
9,706	Roads and Rail Track		42,115	
15,771	Furniture and Equipment		427	
15,809	Maintenance and Repairs		5,271	
985	Sundries		36,166	
				396,028
£1,365,665	<i>Carried forward ...</i>			£2,509,549

CAMEROONS DEVELOP

(Incorporated under Nigerian

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st

31.12.1954

£		£	£
2,644,220	<i>Brought forward ...</i>		3,983,502

NOTE.—The total estimated amount of Commitments for Capital Expenditure at 31st December, 1955, was £750,000

A. H. YOUNG, *Chairman.*

W. J. C. RICHARDS }
 W. L. BLOOMFIELD } *Members.*

A. P. FINLAY, *Chief Accountant.*

£2,644,220

£3,983,502

AUDITORS'

In accordance with Section 17 of the Cameroons Development Corporation Ordinance 1946, we report that incorporated Returns from the various areas comprising the Corporation's Concessions.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and in our opinion the Balance and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books and records of the Corporation.

ENUGU, NIGERIA.

26th March, 1956.

MENT CORPORATION.*Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)***DECEMBER, 1955—(continued)****31.12.1954**

£		£	£
1,365,665	Brought forward ...		2,509,549
	STOCKS (as verified by Officials of the Corporation):—		
	Building Materials, Equipment, Consumable Stores and Stock in Trade (at cost or Standard Price Valuations)	904,100	
892,119	Produce (at market value)	30,801	934,901
	PRODUCE SHIPMENTS AND PALM OIL BULKINGS 1955		
256,177	REALISED IN 1956		299,595
113,838	SUNDRY DEBTORS, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS ...		201,299
	CASH:—		
—	At Bank	—	
16,421	In Hand	9,943	9,943
	PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT:—		
—	Balance at Debit		28,215
<u>£2,644,220</u>			<u>£3,983,502</u>

REPORT

we have examined the above Balance Sheet with the Books of the Corporation in the Cameroons, in which are
 Sheet gives a true and fair view of the state of the Corporation's affairs, according to the best of our information

CASSLETON ELLIOT & Co.

Auditors.

CAMEROONS DEVELOP

(Incorporated under Nigerian

Dr.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR

31.12.1954

£		£	£
1,358,521	To Upkeep of Mature Areas and Production, Ancillary Services, Administration		1,560,614
	„ Medical Services	122,187	
98,041	Less: Contributions by other Plantation Companies ...	16,660	
66,197	„ Welfare and Social Services		105,527
	„ Arbitration Awards:—		72,083
	Retrospective increases in Salaries and Wages from 1.4.55 to 31.10.55		116,012
1,118,741	„ Balance carried down		763,478
£2,641,500			£2,617,714
	To Expenses of Head Office:—		
3,660	Remuneration of Chairman and Members	4,498	
3,688	Members' Travelling and Other Expenses	6,229	
10,154	Staff and Other Expenses	9,896	
			20,623
	„ Bad Debts Written Off		508
3,000	„ Agency and Service Fees and Expenses		3,000
1,249	„ Consultants Fees and Expenses		600
	„ Concession Rent:—		
	The Governor-General of Nigeria	40,951	
	Less: Allocated to Plantations	21,984	
19,051			18,967
1,534	„ Audit Fee and Expenses		1,329
	„ Depreciation:—		
883,733	Written off Improvements to Concessions	560,180	
119,291	Written off Equipment	129,692	
29,636	Written off Motor Vehicles	44,194	
			734,066
53,614	„ Loan Interest		73,521
72,597	„ Balance carried down		—
£1,201,207			£852,614
—	To Balance brought down		17,548
60,285	„ Balance Unappropriated 1955 paid to the Governor-General of Nigeria		19,204
140,450	„ Provision for Income Tax 1956/57 Assessment ...		—
15,896	„ Transfer to Reserve for Retiring Gratuities		11,549
—	„ Transfer to Reserve in accordance with Section 19 of Ordinance No. 39 of 1946		—
19,205	„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet		—
£235,836			£48,301

MENT CORPORATION.*Ordinance No. 39 of 1946.)***THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.***Cr.*31.12.1954

£		£	£
	By Revenue from Plantations:—		
	Bananas	1,856,582	
	Dried Bananas	9,685	
	Palm Products	294,612	
	Rubber	399,557	
	Cocoa	23,383	
	Pepper	1,661	
	Timber	32,234	
2,641,500			2,617,714
<u>£2,641,500</u>			<u>£2,617,714</u>

1,118,741	By Balance brought down	763,478
61,128	„ Agency Earnings and Commission	51,504
21,338	„ Miscellaneous Receipts and Adjustments	20,084
	„ Balance carried down	17,548

<u>£1,201,207</u>		<u>£852,614</u>
72,597	By Balance brought down	—
60,285	„ Balance per last Account	19,204
2,844	„ Income Tax Excess Provision 1955/56 written back	882
110	„ Transfer from Reserve for Deferred Maintenance	—
100,000	„ Transfer from Reserve in accordance with Section 19 in respect of estimated loss from hurricane	—
—	„ Balance carried to Balance Sheet	28,215
<u>£235,836</u>		<u>£48,301</u>

